

Message Text

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42

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 EB-07 CIEP-01 TRSE-00

STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 COME-00 OPIC-03 IGA-01 GSA-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6088

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EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: EINV, EMIN, PFOR, PE, US

SUBJ: MARCONA EXPROPRIATION - REFERENCE IN VELASCO'S IN-
DEPENDENCE DAY SPEECH

REF: LIMA 6092

1. SOMEWHAT TO OUR SURPRISE, PRESIDENT VELASCO DID NOT EMPHASIZE MARCONA EXPROPRIATION IN HIS INDEPENDENCE DAY SPEECH. REFERENCE TO MARCONA OCCURRED AT END OF LIST OF ECONOMIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF GOP DURING PAST YEAR. TEXT OF HIS REMARKS FOLLOWS:

A. "FINALLY, IN PAST DAYS THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT HAS EXPROPRIATED MARCONA. THE PRODUCTION OF THIS RICH BODY OF IRON ORE NOW BELONGS TO PERU. MARCONA WAS DISCOVERED IN 1903 AND FIFTY YEARS LATER ENTERED INTO PRODUCTION. ITS PRESENT PRODUCTION IS MORE THAN NINE MILLION TONS ANNUALLY WITH A VALUE OF 3.5 BILLION SOLES. ITS PROVEN RESERVES ARE 286 MILLION TONS OF MINERAL WITH SECURE MARKETS IN THE WORLD.

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B. "ON ADOPTING THIS HISTORIC DECISION AND THUS CONTINUING

THE RECUPERATION OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES OF PERU, THE
REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF THE ARMED FORCE CONTINUES APPLYING
THE PLAN INCA AS THE NORM OF PERUVIAN POLICY.

C. "THE EXPROPRIATION OF MARCONA IS AN IMPORTANT ADVANCE
OF THE REVOLUTION. IT AFFIRMS OUR NATIONALIST POLICY AND
CONTRIBUTES TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF PERU, REINFORCING OUR
NATIONAL SECURITY ON ITS INTERNAL ECONOMIC FRONT, WHILE AT
THE SAME TIME SATISFYING AN OLD YEARNING OF THE PERUVIAN
PEOPLE. IN CONNECTION WITH THIS FUNDAMENTAL ACHIEVEMENT OF
THE REVOLUTIONARY PROCESS, THE PLANS OF THE GOVERNMENT
CONTEMPLATE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A STEEL PLANT FORE REFINING
MARCONA'S IRON ORE, WHICH WILL GIVE A NEW AND DECISIVE
IMPULSE TO OUR STEEL INDUSTRY."

2. COMMENT: VELASCO'S REMARKS CONTRAST WITH THOSE OF
FERNANDEZ MALDONADO REPORTED SEPTTEL AND ARE INTERESTING FOR
WHAT THEY DID NOT SAY. IT APPEARS THAT THERE ARE TWO DISTINCT
CURRENTS HERE, BUT HOW DEEP THE DIFFERENCE REALLY IS AND ITS
SIGNIFICANCE AS FAR AS MARCONA IS CONCERNED IS SOMETHING
WHICH WE CANNOT YET JUDGE.

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